

### **AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION**

Page 6, the first full paragraph, is amended to read:

Of course, the antistatic agent must be thermically stable up to approximately ~~200°C~~ 200°C if the object is manufactured by hot-pressing, for example, in a mould. Also, the antistatic agent must not be excessively chemically reactive in respect to constituents of the surrounding prepolymer or polymer of the covering layer or top layer.

Page 7, the second full paragraph, is amended to read:

The closer towards the outer surface of the panel the antistatic agent is incorporated, or the thinner the top layer, the smaller the required quantity of said agent is expected in order to achieve a sufficient antistatic effect. The surface resistance  $R_s$  of the object at its synthetic material surface preferably is less than  ~~$5 \times 10^{14}$~~   $5 \times 10^{11}$  Ohm. As a result, the composition of the synthetic material surface of the panel can be viewed as belonging to the dissipative materials, a series between the conductive and insulating materials in the conductivity spectrum.

Page 9, the fourth full paragraph, is amended to read:

Such floor panels mostly are of rectangular (oblong) or square (tiles) shape. The floor panels can have a thickness between 5 and 15 mm. Mostly, they are provided with complementary milled-out edge profiles, for example, snap-together profiles, as described in EP 843763 (U.S. 6,006,486) assigned to the owner of this application. These edge profiles allow a mutual coupling of the adjacent panels in order to form a so-called floating laminated floor.

Page 10, the last paragraph, is amended to read:

The decorative covering layer 3 can also comprise a wood veneer layer or thin cork layer. The back side of the core layer 2 in its turn is covered with a backing layer

5: for example, a resin-impregnated paper layer in order to obtain a perfectly flat and dimensionally stable sandwich structure for the laminate. This basic structure of laminated floor panels is generally known. An example of such floor panels is described in ~~the European patent no. 0.843.763~~ U.S. 6,006,486.

Page 15, the second full paragraph, is amended to read:

Also, the surface resistance  $R_s$  (Ohm) of the test pieces was determined according to the DIN standard 54345 (= ISO 10965). For the "Quick-Step UNICLIC" panel according to the invention,  $R_s = 2.50 \times 10^{10}$ , thus, less than  $5 \times 10^{11}$   $5 \times 10^{11}$  Ohm, and for the reference panel,  $R_s = 1.72 \times 10^{12}$   $10^{12}$ .

Page 15, the last paragraph spanning page 16, is amended to read:

As test piece, the same type of laminated floor panel as in Example 1 and the same reference panel were tested. In the test piece, however, no HCOOK was taken up in the top layer, but only approximately 15 weight% ( $10.4 \text{ g/m}^2$ ) of the solution potassium formate in the melamine for the decorative layer 3. The antistatic effect, as determined by the same walking test as in Example 1, resulted in a charge of an average -633 V for BAM soles and -1586 V for Neolit soles. The reference panel showed a charge of -7225 V, -6069 V, respectively. The surface resistance  $R_s$  was  $4.55 \times 10^{11}$   $10^{11}$  for the test piece and  $5.00 \times 10^{11}$   $10^{11}$  for the reference panel, respectively.

Page 18, the first full paragraph, is amended to read:

The invention is particularly useful for laminated floor panels with chamfered edges, as described in patent application WO 01/96688 (U.S. 6,786,019) assigned to the owner of this application. At the level of these chamfered edges, decorative strips can be provided by means of transfer print or by other techniques, such as varnishing or laquering. These strips, however, mostly are not covered by a wear-resistant top

layer, as the panel itself. Now, the utilization of an antistatic top layer according to the invention to a large extent prevents the attraction of dust by the board surface. Thus, the frequency of the number of required cleaning cycles will be reduced.

Page 18, the second full paragraph, is amended to read:

Also, a sound-reducing intermediary layer, for example, in the form of one or more thin cork sheets or elastomer sheets, can be included below the covering layer 3, corresponding to the teachings from PCT/EP0208924 WO 03/016655 (U.S. 2003/0033777) based on BE 2001/0547 filed August 14, 2001, assigned to the owner of this application. If necessary, the thin cork or elastomer sheets also can be previously impregnated or treated with one or other antistatic agent, in particular an R-X additive according to the invention, and possibly in order to replace the additional layer 6.